



*Visit us at our Maritime  
Administration website location  
for more information on the  
agency or on the maritime industry:*

<http://www.marad.dot.gov>

*ALSO*

*Visit the U.S. Coast Guard website  
for licensing and  
documentation information:*

<http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/m-pers.htm>



## **Information Concerning Employment and Training in the U.S. Merchant Marine**



**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Maritime Administration**



## INTRODUCTION

Many fascinating careers are available in the maritime industry. It offers:

- ◆ Extensive travel
- ◆ Adventure
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Excellent pay and benefits

The maritime career path leads to the following shipboard departments:

- ◆ **Steward/hotel**—food services, sanitation, and accommodations
- ◆ **Engineering**—propulsion, maintenance and management
- ◆ **Deck**—navigation, cargo handling, and management

A high school graduate can attain maritime industry employment in one of the following ways:

- ◆ Contacting a maritime affiliated company or union directly
- ◆ Attending a maritime technical training school
- ◆ Attending a maritime academy or college

The U.S. merchant marine consists of a fleet of privately owned U.S. registered merchant ships that provide waterborne transportation for cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce. Employment on these ships is the responsibility of the owners and is handled for the most part by maritime labor unions. Part-time or summer employment is not available. The level of seafaring employment is determined by the state of U.S. and world business conditions and improvements in ship technology.

This pamphlet provides information on shipboard employment and related maritime education and training programs. Primary shipboard employment categories include high seas, Great Lakes, inland waters and offshore oil and mineral operations. Other areas of employment in the

maritime industry include shipbuilding and ship repair, longshoring (cargo handling), port terminal administration, and intermodal logistics.

## TYPICAL HIGH SEAS SALARIES

Crew members of American merchant ships enjoy excellent pay, and working and living conditions. Most jobs provide 13 days or more paid vacation for each 30 days worked. An example of typical pay on a modern merchant vessel is shown below:

OFFICER RATINGS	Monthly Base Wage	90% Overtime	Total
Third Assistant Engineer	\$3510	\$3175	\$6685
Third Mate	\$3510	\$3175	\$6685
Radio Officer	\$4938	\$4466	\$9404

### CREW RATINGS

Able Seaman	\$2419	\$2188	\$4607
QMED	\$3441	\$3113	\$6554
Engine Utility	\$2500	\$2261	\$4761
Chief Cook	\$2528	\$2287	\$4815
Food Handler	\$1680	\$1519	\$3199

## UNITED STATES MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has Regional Offices in areas of concentrated shipping activity and can provide information on seafaring employment and training. MARAD also is responsible for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. Addresses and telephone numbers are:

Maritime Administration  
North Atlantic Region Director  
1 Bowling Green Room 418  
New York, NY 10004-1415  
Telephone: 212-668-3330

Maritime Administration  
South Atlantic Region Director  
7737 Hampton Boulevard  
Building 4D, Room 211  
Norfolk, VA 23505  
Telephone: 757-441-6393

Maritime Administration  
Great Lakes Region Director  
2860 South River Road  
Suite 185  
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2413  
Telephone: 847-298-4535

Maritime Administration  
Central Region Director  
501 Magazine Street  
Room 1223  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3394  
Telephone: 504-589-2000

Maritime Administration  
Western Region Director  
201 Mission Street  
Suite 2200  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1905  
Telephone: 415-744-3125

Superintendent  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699  
Telephone: 516-773-5000

## **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

The United States Coast Guard is the regulatory agency under the auspices of the Department of Transportation that is responsible for licensing and documentation of all U.S. merchant mariners at United States Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (REC). Prospective applicants for seafaring employment are encouraged to contact the nearest office for local advice and explanation of regulations.

Listed below are locations of U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (RECs):

**ALASKA, Anchorage**  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC),  
510 L St., Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501-1946  
907-271-6736

**ALASKA, Juneau**  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A,  
Juneau, AK 99801-8545  
907-463-2458

**CALIFORNIA, San Francisco Bay**  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Building 14, Coast Guard Island,  
Alameda, CA 94501-5100  
510-437-5381

**CALIFORNIA, Long Beach**  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office/  
Group LA-LB (REC)  
1001 South Seaside Ave., Bldg. 20  
San Pedro, CA 90731-0208  
310-732-2080

**FLORIDA, Miami U.S. Coast Guard,**  
Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Claude Pepper Federal Building  
51 S.W. First Avenue, 6th Floor  
Miami, FL 33130-1608  
305-536-6548/6549/6874 or  
800-982-9374

**HAWAII, Honolulu U.S. Coast Guard,**  
Marine Safety Office (REC)  
433 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96813-4909  
808-522-8264

**LOUISIANA, New Orleans U.S. Coast**  
Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
9820 Lake Forest Blvd., Suite P  
New Orleans, LA 70127-3077  
504-589-6183/4/5

**MARYLAND** Baltimore Commander  
Activities (REC)  
U.S. Custom House, Room 420  
40 South Gay Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4022  
410-962-5132/33/34/35

**MASSACHUSETTS**, Boston  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
445 Commercial Street  
Boston, MA 02109-1045  
617-223-3040/41

**MISSOURI**, St Louis  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
1222 Spruce Street, Suite 8.104E  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2835  
314-539-3091

**NEW YORK**, New York  
USCG Activities New York (REC)  
Battery Park Building, 1 South St.  
New York, NY 10004-8545  
212-668-7492

**OHIO**, Toledo  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
Suite 700  
420 Madison Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419-418-6010

**OREGON**, Portland  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
6767 N. Basin Avenue  
Portland, OR 97217-3992  
503-240-9346

**SOUTH CAROLINA**, Charleston  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
196 Tradd Street  
Charleston, SC 29401-1899  
803-724-7693  
800-826-1511

**TENNESSEE**, Memphis  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
200 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 1302  
Memphis, TN 38103-2300  
901-544-3297

**TEXAS**, Houston  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
8876 Gulf Freeway Suite 200,  
Houston, TX 77017-6595  
713-948-3350/51

**WASHINGTON**, Puget Sound  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
Office (REC)  
1519 Alaskan Way South  
Bldg.1  
Seattle, WA 98134-1192  
206-217-6115

## **THE MERCHANT MARINER'S DOCUMENT**

Merchant Mariner's Documents (MMD) are issued by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), as required by applicable laws. With certain exceptions, no one may be employed on a U.S.-flag merchant vessel of 100 gross tons or over without a MMD issued by one of the U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (REC's) previously listed above. All MMD's expire five years from the issue date, and therefore, must be renewed within that five year period. Renewals may be completed by mail.

Application for an original MMD: No evidence of service is required to obtain an entry level rating. An applicant must present evidence of passing a drug test, a social security card, and proof of legal entry into the United States. For mariners wishing to have their entry level MMD endorsed for international service, evidence of medical fitness (agility, ability, and strength) is

required, Evidence of service, and in some cases evidence of approved training, must be presented to establish service qualifications for individuals seeking qualified ratings. The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) requires extensive training for mariners in qualified ratings who wish to sail internationally.

Applicants must meet the following general requirements:

a) Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant between 16 and 18 years of age must present a notarized statement of parental or guardian's consent.

b) The mariner must furnish three unmounted dull-finished photographs of passport type (2 inches by 1.5 inches) taken within one year showing the full face at least one inch in height with the head uncovered. Some REC's are equipped with cameras for this purpose. Before purchasing photos, check with the REC at which you plan to apply.

c) Applicants who indicate the use of drugs or conviction of drug related offenses, other criminal convictions or National Driver Register motor vehicle convictions may not be eligible for an MMD.

d) Applicants must present acceptable evidence of citizenship at the time of filing the original application. Acceptable evidence of citizenship includes an original or certified copy of: birth certificate; certificate of naturalization (only original is acceptable); baptismal certificate; or a valid U.S. passport.

e) Aliens applying for a MMD must present acceptable documentary evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that the alien is lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. This evidence may be in the form of an alien registration receipt card issued by the INS bearing the certification that the alien was admitted to the United States as

an immigrant, or a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the U.S. issued by a naturalization court.

For additional information concerning qualifications, requirements and interpretations of applicable regulations and policy, contact the nearest REC. There is a fee for the issuance of an MMD.

## **MARITIME EMPLOYMENT**

### **HIGH SEAS**

Employment on U.S.-flag cargo ships is handled by maritime labor unions and ship operators. Information on high seas shipboard employment is available through the following industry contacts:

**Seafarers International Union**  
Piney Point, MD 20674  
800-732-2739  
Internet: [www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org)

**Sailors Union of the Pacific**  
450 Harrison St.  
San Francisco CA 94105  
415-777-3400  
Internet: [www.sailors.org](http://www.sailors.org)

**Marine Firemen's Union**  
240 Second St.  
San Francisco CA 94105  
415-362-4592

**American Maritime Officers**  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Suite 7204  
Washington, DC 20024  
202-479-1166

**Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, District No.1-MEBA**  
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-638-5355

**International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots**  
700 Maritime Boulevard  
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090  
410-850-8700

**Military Sealift Command, (MSC)**  
Department of the Navy, operates numerous merchant-type ships manned by civilian crews employed under Civil Service regulations. Previous U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard experience is a major consideration in filling available jobs. Salaries of civilian crew members aboard MSC ships are based on wage rates and practices which are similar to the commercial shipping industry. The MSC employment office is as follows:

Director, Afloat Personnel Management Center  
P.O. Box 120  
Virginia Beach, VA 23458-0120  
877-562-7672  
Internet: [www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com)

**The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations**, operates high seas and inland oceanographic research and survey vessels. Most of the operating personnel are under civil service regulations. Detailed employment information is available on the internet at [www.jobs.doc.gov](http://www.jobs.doc.gov)

**Other Contacts**, The names and addresses of all U.S.-flag steamship companies and maritime labor unions are available in MARAD's "Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide" which is a publication available on MARAD's website, [www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov); follow link to Publications.

## **GREAT LAKES, COASTAL AND INLAND WATERS**

**The Lake Carriers Association**, Suite 915, 614 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113, can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for marine personnel on the Great Lakes. Telephone: 216-861-0592, or email: [ggn@lccaships.com](mailto:ggn@lccaships.com).

Their website is: [www.lccaships.com](http://www.lccaships.com)

**The American Waterways Operators (AWO)** is the national trade association for the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry. AWO is comprised of 375 member companies that serve the diverse needs of U.S. shippers and consumers. AWO members operate throughout the United States on America's rivers; canals; in its ports and harbors; on the Great Lakes; and on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts. For information on the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry and a list of AWO's member companies, log on to [www.americanwaterways.com](http://www.americanwaterways.com).

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army**, operates floating equipment which is used to maintain and improve the Nation's waterways. These vessels are also manned by civilian crews who are employed under civil service regulations. Employment opportunities are very limited. Federal employment opportunities with the Corps of Engineers are advertised with the Office of Personnel Management on the internet at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).

## **OFFSHORE OIL AND MINERAL**

**Offshore Marine Services Association, Inc. (OMSA)** is an association of companies that includes oil and mineral vessels such as crew and supply boats that support offshore oil and mineral industry oil rigs and platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and other locations. OMSA's website contains listings of companies and employment contacts on the internet at [www.offshoremarine.org](http://www.offshoremarine.org).

## **MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy** and six State maritime academies provide merchant marine officer education and training programs that take at least four (4) years to complete. The Seafarers International Union's Paul Hall Center provides crew apprenticeship training which takes approximately one (1) year to complete. Some of the other programs

listed below also offer continuing education or skills upgrading training. Certain courses at labor operated schools are for members only.



Student costs, enrollment levels and entry qualifications will vary. For a complete listing of all schools and courses approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, visit their web site at [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil). A list of principal schools follows:

### ***Federal Merchant Marine Academy***

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
Kings Point, NY 11024  
516-773-5000  
Internet: [www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

### ***State Maritime Academies***

State University of New York Maritime College  
6 Pennyfield Avenue  
Throgs Neck, Bronx, NY 10465  
718-409-7220 or 1-800-654-1874 in New York State, or 1-800-642-1874 in the Northeast email:  
[www.admissions@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:www.admissions@sunymaritime.edu)  
Internet: [www.sunymaritime.edu](http://www.sunymaritime.edu)

Maine Maritime Academy  
Admissions Office  
Castine, ME 04420  
1-800-464-6565 in Maine, or  
1-800-227-8465 out-of-state  
email: [admissions@bell.mma.edu](mailto:admissions@bell.mma.edu)

Texas A&M University at Galveston  
P.O. Box 1675 Galveston, TX 77553-1675  
1-877-322-4443  
email: [seaaggie@tamug.tamu.edu](mailto:seaaggie@tamug.tamu.edu)  
Internet: [tamug.tamu.edu/corps/index.html](http://tamug.tamu.edu/corps/index.html)

Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
101 Academy Drive  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532  
1-800-544-3411 or 508-830-5000  
email: [admissions@mma.mass.edu](mailto:admissions@mma.mass.edu)  
Internet: [mma.mass.edu/mma.html](http://mma.mass.edu/mma.html)

California Maritime Academy  
200 Maritime Academy Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94590-8181  
1-800-561-1945 or 707-654-1330  
email: [admission.csum.edu](mailto:admission.csum.edu)  
Internet: [www.csum.edu](http://www.csum.edu)

Great Lakes Maritime Academy  
Northwestern Michigan College  
Traverse City, MI 49686-3061  
231-995-1200 or 1-800-748-0566 ext.1200  
Internet: [www.nmc.edu/maritime](http://www.nmc.edu/maritime)

### ***Maritime Labor-Operated Schools***

The Seafarers International Union  
Paul Hall Center  
Piney Point, MD 20674  
301-994-0010 or 1-877-235-3275  
Internet: [www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org)

Andrew Furuseth School Of Seamanship  
450 Harrison Street  
San Francisco, CA 94405  
415-777-3400  
Internet: [www.sailors.org](http://www.sailors.org)

Calhoon MEBA Engineering School  
27050 St. Michaels Road,  
Easton MD 21601  
410-822-9800  
email: [mebaschool@mebaschool.org](mailto:mebaschool@mebaschool.org)  
Internet: [www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org)

Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies  
5700 Hammonds Ferry Road  
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090  
410-859-5700  
email: [admissions@mitags.org](mailto:admissions@mitags.org)  
Internet: [www.mitags.org](http://www.mitags.org)

American Maritime Officers Safety & Education Plan- RTM Center for Advanced Maritime Officers Training/ RTM STAR Center  
2 West Dixie Highway  
Dania Beach, FL 33004  
TEL (800) 445-4522, (954) 921-7254  
FAX (800) 431-8815, (954) 920-4268  
[www.star-center.com](http://www.star-center.com),

American Maritime Officers Safety and  
Education Plan-School of Marine  
Engineering and Navigation  
I Maritime Plaza,  
Toledo, OH 43604  
800-221-9395  
www.star-center.com

American Radio Association-Technology  
Institute for Maritime Electronics  
(ARA-TIME)  
360 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor,  
New York, NY 10001  
212-594-3600  
email: arany@mindspring.com

### ***Other Non-Profit Schools***

Seamen's Church Institute  
Center for Maritime Education  
241 Water Street New York, NY 10038  
212-233-2242  
Internet: seamenschurch.com

IBU Job Corps Seamanship Training  
Program  
Tongue Point Job Corps Center,  
Astoria, OR 97103  
503-325-8475  
email: ibusm@pacifier.com

Kingsborough Community College  
Office of Marine Education  
2001 Oriental Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
718-368-5000  
email: jmuzio@kbcc.cuny.edu

Seattle Central Community College  
Seattle Maritime Academy  
4455 Shilshole Ave. NW  
Seattle, WA 98107-4645  
206-782-2647

### ***Specialized Safety Courses***

The U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD  
jointly approve courses in marine fire  
fighting, collision avoidance navigation,  
radar, vessel stability, and emergency

medical care. For information, contact the  
following:

U.S. Coast Guard  
National Maritime Center  
4200 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 630  
Arlington, VA 22203-1804  
202-493-1000

or

Maritime Administration  
MAR-250, Room 7302  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
202-366-5755

### ***MARAD Marine Fire Fighting***

Maritime Administration offices provide  
information on local practical marine fire  
fighting courses that are approved by the  
U.S. Coast Guard. In addition the agency  
advertises availability of its firefighting  
courses located in Toledo, Ohio, on the  
Department of Transportation's "Do It  
Yourself" (DIY) website, which is on the  
web at: [www.diy.dot.gov/](http://www.diy.dot.gov/). For direct  
information, contact the following:

Maritime Administration  
North Atlantic Region Fire Training  
Registrar  
1 Bowling Green, Room 418  
New York, NY 10004-1415  
212-668-3330

Maritime Administration  
MARAD/MSC Fire School  
1029 Highway 33 East  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
732-938-5190

Maritime Administration  
Great Lakes Region Fire Training Center  
2600 Eber Road  
Swanton, OH 43558  
419-259-6362



Maritime Administration  
Western Region Fire Training (Referrals)  
201 Mission Street, Suite 2200  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-744-3125

### ***Ship Operations Cooperative Program (SOCP)***

SOCP is a unique government/industry program that promotes safe and efficient ship operations and has developed several training videos for industry and training school use. Further information on mariner recruitment, training videos and other training projects are described on the SOCP website at [www.socp.org](http://www.socp.org). Information is also available at MARAD by calling 202-366-4125.

### ***The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program (GAM)***

Attn:DRP-2  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590-0001  
<http://education.dot.gov> or  
email: [garrett.morgan@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:garrett.morgan@rspa.dot.gov)

The Garrett A. Morgan Program is a national education initiative of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Particulars on the program are as follows:

**Who** — Garrett Morgan (1877-1963) was an African-American inventor who was born in Kentucky and lived his adult life in Cleveland, Ohio. One of his most notable inventions was the traffic signal, a device which provided the foundation for managing traffic flows in the 20th century. This technology has been electrified, then computerized, but not replaced because the science of its use was both revolutionary and ahead of its time.

**What** — The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program has three goals:

- ◆ To build a bridge between America's youth and the transportation community;
- ◆ To support the development of improved educational technology that provides better ways for people to acquire new skills; and
- ◆ To ensure that America's transportation work force for the 21st century is technologically literate and internationally competitive.

**Why** — Much of the seasoned transportation work force is retiring. The demand for both traditional and new skills is expanding. The nation's need for technologically literate transportation workers continues to grow.

**How** — The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program serves as a catalyst to promote transportation careers and education at all levels. In 2000, the Morgan Program reached over 1 million students. The program consists of four components:

1. Math, Science, and Technology Literacy Challenge (K-12)
2. Community College Partnership
3. Undergraduate and Graduate Opportunities
4. Life-long Learning

***(Using the web address on the previous page, click on any of these four components for details.)***